

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
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Tsutomu HONDA et al.)
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Application No.: 08/666,653) Group Art Unit: 2712
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Filed: June 18, 1996) Examiner: A. Moe
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For: DUAL MODE IMAGE)
SHOOTING APPARATUS)
WITH STILL IMAGE AND)
MOTION VIDEO IMAGE)
RECORDING AND)
REPRODUCTION)
(as amended))

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

5/12/00
Jf
In response to the Office Action dated December 8, 1999, reconsideration and allowance of the above-captioned application are respectfully requested. Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 19-26 have been allowed.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-7, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,710,954 to Inoue ("Inoue") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,710,954 to Kori et al. ("Kori"). On page 6 of the Office Action claims 8-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,974,096 to Wash ("Wash"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Prior to discussing the grounds of rejection in detail, a brief summary of Applicants' novel image shooting apparatus is provided to highlight advantageous characteristics therein.

Conventional image shooting apparatuses are capable of both recording a silver salt picture and recording an image signal. However, these systems are unable to display still picture shooting information. A first exemplary embodiment overcomes such problems by enabling the recording of silver salt information when a silver salt picture is recorded, and it is also possible to record video information when a video signal is recorded. The silver salt information thus inputted during recording can be displayed on the electric display device. For example, when silver salt picture shooting is performed during video movie shooting, the thus shot image can be displayed as a still image during reproduction of the video, and the reproduction conditions can be varied. Note page 5, line 22 et seq. of the present specification.

The Inoue patent on the other hand includes a video recording unit 125 as illustrated in Figure 17 (column 23, lines 63 et seq.) in which a moving image can be recorded on a video tape simultaneously with recording on a silver salt film. More specifically, when a moving image having the best composition to be recorded on the film is obtained in recording an object, the release button of the camera is fully pressed. At this time, an image memory 111 stores an object image. Figs. 8 and 9 shows other embodiments which pertain to the entry of post-processing information.

Turning now to the claims, Applicants submit that Inoue does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 1. For instance, Inoue does not disclose or suggest a video signal recording section for recording a video signal obtained by the video picture shooting section and video information on a video recording medium, the video information relating to the shooting of the video picture, wherein the video signal recording section stores still pictures and motion pictures on the video recording medium, the still pictures being distinguished from the motion pictures based on the video information which is stored in a data area of the video recording medium. In Inoue, for instance, there is no indication that video memory 125 stores information pertaining to still and motion video pictures, wherein the still pictures are identified by video information stored in a data area of a recording medium.

A second exemplary embodiment of the present invention, encompassed by independent claim 8, pertains to an image shooting apparatus. According to the above construction, it is possible to record silver salt information when a silver salt picture is recorded, and it is also possible to record video information when a video signal is recorded. Since silver salt information thus inputted during recording is recorded in the index data recording section, the silver salt information can easily be retrieved by searching the index data recording portion. Accordingly, it is not necessary to search a film or a recording medium from end to end in order to retrieve silver salt information. Note page 6, line 22 et seq. of the present specification, and particularly the disclosure pertaining to Figure 33 on pages 49 and 50.

Inoue recites, in column 12, line 44 et seq., that a screen subjected to post-processing may be searched and found on the image monitor 21. The magnetic reading circuit 31 finds a frame having the same frame number as that of the screen read on the image monitor 21 while searching information on the magnetic recording layer of the film.

Inoue does not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claim 8. For instance, Inoue does not disclose or suggest an index data recording section provided separately from the video signal recording section for searching the recording medium for separately stored information pertaining to silver salt shooting information, and for collecting together and recording index data which forms an aggregate of the separate silver salt shooting information.

Inoue apparently stores information pertaining to frame data. However, there is at least no suggestion that an index data recording section is provided separately from a video signal recording section, or that an index data recording section searches and collects together index data from a recording medium. The Examiner states that: "As for the index recording section, this limitation is writtten broadly enough to read on the aggregate of information which is stored on the film along with each photograph (see figure 4)." However, this information is created during the shooting of each still picture. Consequently, this information is not provided by searching and collecting together information from a recording medium, as now recited. Accordingly, this claim is believed to patentably distinguish over the Inoue patent.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on the above-identified independent claims. Moreover, these claims recite additional subject matter which is not disclosed or suggested by the documents taken either alone or in combination.

Independent claim 30 shares similar features to independent claim 1, and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 1.

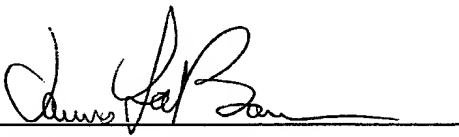
For at least the above-stated reasons, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103 rejections based on Inoue.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned if any issues remain unresolved by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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